

Egypt E-Alert

Office of Egyptian Vice-President Omar Suleiman
An Update on the Egyptian Dialogue
February 7, 2011

Below is a statement issued yesterday by Egyptian Vice-President Omar Suleiman on the ongoing reform dialogue in Egypt.

CAIRO, EGYPT – Yesterday, Egyptian Vice-President Omar Suleiman held a series of meetings with representatives of the full spectrum of political parties and forces, as well as a number of youths from the January 25th movement. The meeting participants arrived at the following consensus:

All participants of the dialogue arrived at a consensus to express their appreciation and respect for the January 25th movement and on the need to deal seriously, expeditiously and honestly with the current crisis that the nation is facing, the legitimate demands of the youth of January 25th and society's political forces, with full consideration and a commitment to constitutional legitimacy in confronting the challenges and dangers faced by Egypt as result of this crisis, including:

- The lack of security for the populace;
- Disturbances to daily life;
- The paralysis of public services;
- The suspension of education at universities and schools;
- The logistical delays in the delivery of essential goods to the population;
- The damages to and losses of the Egyptian economy;
- The attempts at foreign intervention into purely Egyptian affairs and breaches of security by foreign elements working to undermine stability in implementation of their plots, while recognizing that the January 25th movement is a honorable and patriotic movement.

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The participants in the national dialogue agreed on a number of political arrangements, and constitutional and legislative measures, which the participants agreed by consensus would be of a temporary nature until the election of new president at the end of the current presidential term, including:

First: Implementing the Commitments Announced by the President in Speech to the Nation on February 1, 2011:

1. No nomination for a new presidential term will take place;
2. A peaceful transition of authority within the constitutional framework;
3. The introduction of constitutional amendments to articles 76 & 77, and related constitutional amendments needed for the peaceful transition of authority;
4. Legislative amendments related to the amendments of the constitution;
5. Implementation of the rulings of the Court of Cassation, regarding challenges to the People's Assembly election
6. Pursuit of corruption, and an investigation into those behind the breakdown of security in line with the law

7. Restoring the security and stability of the nation, and tasking the police forces to resume their role in serving and protecting the people.

Second: In implementation of these commitments the following measures will be taken:

1. A committee will be formed from members of the judicial authority and a number of political figures to study and recommend constitutional amendments, and legislative amendments of laws complimentary to the constitution to be completed by the first week of March.
2. The Government announces the establishment of a bureau to receive complaints regarding, and commits to immediately release, prisoners of conscience of all persuasions. The Government commits itself to not pursuing them or limiting their ability to engage in political activity.
3. Media and communications will be liberalized and no extra-legal constraints will be imposed on them.
4. Supervisory and judiciary agencies will be tasked with continuing to pursue persons implicated in corruption, as well as pursuing and holding accountable persons responsible for the recent breakdown in security.
5. The state of emergency will be lifted based on the security situation and an end to the threats to the security of society
6. All participants expressed their absolute rejection of any and all forms of foreign intervention in internal Egyptian affairs.

Third: A national follow-up committee will be established and composed of public and independent figures from among experts, specialists and representatives of youth movements, and will monitor the implementation of all consensual agreements, and issues reports and recommendations to the Vice-President.

In addition, all participants in the dialogue saluted the patriotic and loyal role played by our Armed Forces at this sensitive time, and affirmed their aspirations for a continuation of that role to restore of calm, security and stability, and to guarantee the implementation and of the consensus and understandings that result from the meetings of the national dialogue.

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